

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0083] on page 24 with the following amended paragraph.

[0083] When an operator pushes the start button of the apparatus 1, the heated wafer 41 ascends at a predetermined timing and the tube-pushing member 10 which pressed the tubes 8, 9, at the first position P1 cancels pressing thereto and ascends while resisting the energizing force of the springs 13. Both continue ascending movement, and the wafer 41 advances to a gap between the ~~first position P1 and the second position P2~~ and the third position P3 to melt and cut the tubes 8, 9. At this time, the tube-pushing member 10 is located at the evacuating position. (See Fig. 7A.)

Please replace paragraph [0098] beginning on page 29 with the following amended paragraph.

[0098] <Structure>

As shown in FIG. 14, a shaft 59 which protrudes toward a side of the second clamp 7 and which serves as a protruded portion is fixed to an end face of the plate piece 28 of the first clamp 6 in this embodiment, in place of the block 58 in the first embodiment. Further, a slot 40 into which the shaft 59 can be inserted and which serves as a groove portion or a dented portion is formed at an end face of the plate piece 38 of the second clamp 7 and at a side of the first clamp 6. This slot 40 has a function of allowing the shaft 59 to move in accordance with movement of the first clamp 6 in tube connecting operation as stated later. (See FIGS. 31 and 32.)

Incidentally, the tube connecting apparatus 1 is accommodated in a casing such that protruded members as shown in FIG. ~~[[1]]~~ 14 are hidden. (See FIG. 15.)

Please replace paragraph [0133] on page 43 with the following amended paragraph.

[0133] The CPU 191 judges as to whether or not the wafer feeding member 115 moves more than a predetermined amount (30 mm in this embodiment, See the wafer feeding member ~~[[15]]~~ 115 shown by a two dotted line in FIG. 28.) from the wafer feeding start position to a direction of the wafer feeding end position. When a negative judgment is made, the CPU 191 continues to grasp the position of the wafer feeding member 115. Incidentally, in this embodiment, the moving amount of the wafer feeding member 115 for feeding the wafer 41 is set to approximately 55 mm.

Please amend paragraph [0138] on page 45 with the following amended paragraph.

[0138] As shown in FIG. 21A, the projection portion 148 which has the metal roller 147 at its tip and which forms a part of the wafer holder 140 pushes up a part of the tube-pushing member 10 which pressed the tubes 8, 9 at the first position P1, and the heated wafer 41 which is held by the wafer holder 140 advances to the gap between the ~~first position P1 and the second position P2~~ and the third position P3 (between the first clamp 6 and the second clamp 7) to cut the two tubes 8, 9. At this time, the tube-pushing member 10 is brought in a state that it is located at the evacuating position to the wafer 41. (See FIG. 22C.) FIG. 25 shows a state that the wafer holder 140 ascends (swings) and the wafer 41 cuts the tubes 8, 9 set at the

predetermined positions. On the other hand, the cam 157 rotates (See FIG. 30B.) from a state shown in FIG. 30A, but the first clamp 6 is kept in a stopped state in the same manner as the second clamp 7 (supporting table 174) shown in FIG. 29A.

Please amend paragraph [0143] beginning on page 46 with the following amended paragraph.

[0143] When an operator lifts the plate piece 28 provided at the tip side of the covering body 24 to cancel the locking mechanism 26 in order to remove the tube(s) that the connecting operation is finished from a main body of the apparatus, the covering body 24 becomes an opened state as shown in FIGS. 26C and 27C. At this time, the covering body ~~[[26]]~~ 24 and the covering body 34 are in a state that their relative positions are changed or dislocated, however, because the shaft 59 is inserted in the slot 40, when the operator lifts the covering body 24, the covering body 34 is lifted approximately at the same time linked with lifting of the covering body 24. On the other hand, linked with the opening operation of the covering body 24 carried out by the operator, since the roller 206 in a stopped state functions so as to push the inclined face 257 formed at a side (a side of the tube-pushing member 10) of the rear end portion 252 of the latch 250, the inclined face 257 runs away (moves) sequentially due to abutment against the roller 206. This brings the tip portion 251 of the latch 250 to disengage engagement thereof with the groove 204 formed at a part of the tube-pushing member 10 and to release tube-pushing member 10 from the latched (engaged) state at the evacuating position. The released tube-pushing member 10 drops downward to go back to an initial state (See FIGS. 26C and 27C.) In short, linked with the opening operation for the

covering body 24, the engaged state of the tube-pushing member 10 at the evacuating position is released (canceled). Incidentally, in a state that the covering body 24 is opened, a space 211 is defined between the covering body 24 and the supporting member 205.